

9/2/2012/0012

PREPARED FOR:
LANDSCAPE DYNAMICS

**A PHASE I HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT (HIA) STUDY FOR
THE PROPOSED DULLSTROOM COUNTRY LODGE PHASE III
RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT NEAR DULLSTROOM IN THE
MPUMALANGA PROVINCE OF SOUTH AFRICA**

Prepared by:

**Dr Julius CC Pistorius
Archaeologist and**

**Heritage Management Consultant
352 Rosemary Street
LYNNWOOD 0081
Pretoria**

**Tel and fax (012) 348 5668
Cell 0825545449
January 2005**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) study as required in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999) was done for the proposed new Dullstroom Country Lodge Phase III development that is planned near Dullstroom in the Mpumalanga Province of South Africa.

The aims with the HIA study were to establish if any of the types and ranges of heritage resources as outlined in the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No 25 of 1999) occur in the project area (see Box 1).

The HIA study of the Dullstroom Country Lodge Phase II residential development project revealed the presence of two Informal Graves, an Informal Dwelling, a Late Iron Age or Historical Site and a Historical Farm House in the north-western zone of the project area. All these heritage resources will be affected (destroyed) if the proposed new residential development project expands into the north-western zone of the project area.

The Informal Graves can be considered to be of outstanding significance. These graves have to be conserved (*in situ*) for posterity in the new residential development or have to be exhumed and relocated. It is recommended that the deceased be exhumed and that the graves be relocated. This work must be done by forensic archaeologists who will acquire all the necessary permits for the exhumation of the graves and the relocation of the graveyards. Various laws, provincial regulations and administrative procedures regulate this activity. Contact details for forensic archaeologists are: Mr. Coen Nienaber, Dept of Anatomy, University of Pretoria (tel. 012 3192244).

The Informal Dwelling has no significance and can be destroyed by the new development project. The developer needs not to acquire a permit from SAHRA for the demolishing of these remains.

The Late Iron Age or Historical Site and the Historical Farm House can only be demolished after a permit for the destruction of these remains have been issued by SAHRA. It is recommended that the developer approaches an archaeologist accredited with ASAPA to apply for this permit and to supervise the demolishing of this site.

CONTENTS

Executive summary	2
1 INTRODUCTION	5
2 TERMS OF REFERENCE	8
3 THE PROJECT AREA, METHODOLOGY AND TERMINOLOGY	9
3.1 The project area	9
3.2 Methodology	10
3.3 Assumptions and limitations	10
3.4 Some remarks on terminology	10
4 THE HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT (HIA) STUDY	13
4.1 Types and ranges of heritage resources in the project area	13
4.1.1 Informal graves	13
4.1.2 The Informal Dwelling	14
4.1.3 A Late Iron Age or Historical Site	15
4.1.4 Ruins of a Historical Farm Home(stead)	16
5 THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE HERITAGE RESOURCES	18
5.1 Rating the significance of the heritage resources	18
5.1.1 The Informal graves	18
5.1.2 The Informal Dwelling	18
5.1.3 The Late Iron Age or Historical Site	18
5.1.4 Ruins of a Historical Farm Home(stead)	19

5.2	Possible impact on the heritage resources	19
5.2.1	The Informal Graves	20
5.2.2	The Informal Dwelling	20
5.2.3	The Late Iron Age or Historical Site	20
5.2.4	The ruins of a Historical Farm Home(stead)	20
6	CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS	21
7	SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY	23

1 INTRODUCTION

Focused archaeological research has been conducted in the Mpumalanga Province for at least three decades. This research consists of surveys and of excavations of Stone Age and Iron Age sites as well as of the recording of rock art sites in this area. Ecologically speaking, the region includes parts of the Eastern Bankenveld, the higher western Drakensberg escarpment and parts of the lower lying eastern Lowveld. The area has a rich cultural heritage, consisting of remains dating from both the prehistoric and the colonial periods of South Africa. These archaeological and historical remains include:

- limestone caves and underground dwelling sites of the earliest hominids (ape-man creatures) who lived in Southern Africa 2 to 3 million years ago;
- Stone Age sites which may be associated with the San people and which date back hundreds of thousands of years;
- rock engraving sites located along rocky outcrops and dating from the last 20 000 years;
- rock painting sites in the Drakensberg which date from the last 10 000 years;
- Early Iron Age sites occupied by Bantu-Negroid agriculturists and possibly cattle herders which date back 1 500 years;
- Late Iron Age sites dating from the last 500 years;
- remains dating from the previous century when the first Immigrant Boers settled in various places to the west of the Drakensberg from the 1840's onwards;

- block houses built by British troops during the Anglo-Boer War (1899-1900) on mountain ranges; and
- numerous other formal historical features (the Pelgrimrust Museum, the historically reconstructed Nederlandsch Zuid-Afrikaansche Spoorweg Maatschappij (NZASM) tunnel near Waterval-Boven, the Middelburg Museum with a Ndebele *umuzi* as one of its satellite museums, the Mapoch's Caves near Roossenekal, the Merensky Missionary station near Middelburg, etc).

The heritage resources of the Mpumalanga Province therefore constitute a rich and diversified range of the national estate as outlined in Sec 3 of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999) (see Box 1, next page).

Box 1 : Types and ranges of heritage resources as outlined in the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999).

The National Heritage Resources Act (Act No 25 of 1999, Art 3) outlines the following types and ranges of heritage resources that qualify as part of the national estate, namely:

- (a) places, buildings structures and equipment of cultural significance;
 - (b) places to which oral traditions are attached or which are associated with living heritage;
 - (c) historical settlements and townscapes;
 - (d) landscapes and natural features of cultural significance;
 - (e) geological sites of scientific or cultural importance;
 - (f) archaeological and paleontological sites;
 - (g) graves and burial grounds including:
 - (i) ancestral graves;
 - (ii) royal graves and graves of traditional leaders
 - (iii) graves of victims of conflict
 - (v) graves of individuals designated by the Minister by notice in the Gazette;
 - (v) historical graves and cemeteries; and
 - (vi) other human remains which are not covered by in terms of the Human Tissue Act, 1983 (Act No 65 of 1983)
- (h) sites of significance relating to the history of slavery in South Africa;
 - (i) moveable objects, including -
 - (i) objects recovered from the soil or waters of South Africa, including archaeological and paleontological objects and material, meteorites and rare geological specimens;
 - (ii) objects to which oral traditions are attached or which are associated with living heritage;
 - (iii) ethnographic art and objects;
 - (iv) military objects;
 - (v) objects of decorative or fine art
 - (vi) objects of scientific or technological interest; and
 - (vii) books, records, documents, photographs, positives and negatives, graphic, film or video material or sound recordings, excluding those that are public records as defined in section 1(xiv) of the National Archives of South Africa Act, 1996 (Act No 43 of 1996).
- The National Heritage Resources Act (Act No 25 of 1999, Art 3) also distinguishes nine criteria for places and objects to qualify as 'part of the national estate' if they 'have cultural significance or other special value ...'. These criteria are the following:
- (a) its importance in the community, or pattern of South Africa's history;
 - (b) its possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of South Africa's natural or cultural heritage;
 - (c) its potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of South Africa's natural or cultural heritage;
 - (d) its importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class of South Africa's natural or cultural places or objects
 - (e) its importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group;
 - (f) its importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period;
 - (g) its strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons;
 - (h) its strong or special association with the life or work of a person, group or organisation of importance in the history of South Africa;
 - (i) sites of significance relating to the history of slavery in South Africa

2 TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Dullstroom Country Lodge Phase III residential development project involves the establishment of approximately forty-four new residences on the farm Morgenzon 122JT to the east of Dullstroom in the Mpumalanga Province of South Africa (Figure 1).

The Dullstroom Country Lodge Phase III residential development project may affect some of the types and ranges of heritage resources (national estate) that are outlined in the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No 25 of 1999). Consequently, Landscape Dynamics commissioned the author of this report to undertake a Phase I Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) study to determine whether the proposed development may impact on any of the types and ranges of heritage resources that are outline in Box 1. The aims with the HIA are:

- to establish whether any of the types and ranges of heritage resources as outlined in the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No 25 of 1999) occur within the perimeters of the Dullstroom Country Lodge Phase III residential development project and, if so;
- to determine the level (or degree) of significance of these heritage resources; and
- to make recommendations regarding the mitigation or the conservation of these heritage resources if they are to be affected by the proposed new development project.

3 THE PROJECT AREA, METHODOLOGY AND TERMINOLOGY

3.1 The project area

The proposed Dullstroom Country Lodge Phase III residential development project is located on the farm Morgenzon 122JT in the Mpumalanga Province of South Africa. The project area is located approximately 25 km to the east of Dullstroom and borders on the Dullstroom Country Lodge Phase II project which is already in the process of being developed.

The project area is approximately 200 hectares in extent and is demarcated by a secondary dirt road in the north, pristine grass veldt along its western and eastern borders and the Dullstroom Country Lodge Phase II residential area along its southern border. A fir (pine) wood covers a substantial part of the south-eastern corner of the project area while Fir (Pine) trees, Blue Gums and Wattles are also well established in the north-western corner of the project area where modern, historical and informal dwellings were established from the earliest times (Dullstroom AC 2530; 1:50 000).

The project area was divided into the following zones that were subjected to a survey on foot:

- The south-eastern zone which is covered with pine-wood. The only natural feature in this part of the project area is a stream that runs along a valley through the pine-wood.
- The central zone runs from the high southern border of the project area to its low-lying northern boundary which is demarcated by the secondary dirt road. The central zone is of the project area is covered with grass veldt that runs down the slope of the mountain.

- The north-western zone of the project area is covered with pine-wood as well as Blue Gum and Wattle trees. Infrastructure and features such as an informal dwelling, the ruins of a historical farm homestead, a modern residence and two informal graves are located on the northern perimeter of this zone.

3.2 **Methodology**

The Phase I HIA study of the Dullstroom Country Lodge Phase III residential development project entailed a survey of the project area on foot. Archaeological data bases such as the Archaeological Data Recording Centre at the National Flagship Institute (Museum Africa) in Pretoria was also consulted in order to establish if any heritage resources of significance have been recorded during earlier archaeological surveys in the wider study area.

The author of this report has done earlier HIA studies close to the project area, subsequently gaining an understanding of the types and ranges of heritage resources that may be found in the project area (see Part 7, 'Selected Bibliography').

3.3 **Assumptions and limitations**

HIA surveys may not detect all heritage resources in any given project area. Some remains may simply be missed during surveys while others may lie below the surface of the earth and may only be exposed once development commences.

3.4 **Some remarks on terminology**

Terminologies that may be used in this report are briefly outlined in Box 2.

Box 2. Terminologies that may be used in this report

The Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) referred to in the title of this report includes a survey of heritage resources as outlined in the National Heritage Resources Act 1999 (Act No 25 of 1999) (See Box 1).

Heritage resources (cultural resources) include all human-made phenomena and intangible products that are the result of the human mind. Natural, technological or industrial features may also be part of heritage resources, as places that have made an outstanding contribution to the cultures, traditions and lifestyles of the people or groups of people of South Africa.

The term 'pre-historical' refers to the time before any historical documents were written or any written language developed in a particular area or region of the world. The historical period and historical remains refer, for the project area, to the first appearance or use of 'modern' Western writing brought to the Dullstroom area by the first Colonists who settled in this area after c. 1840.

The term 'relatively recent past' refers to the 20th century. Remains from this period are not necessarily older than sixty years and therefore may not qualify as archaeological or historical remains. Some of these remains, however, may be close to sixty years of age and may, in the near future, qualify as heritage resources.

It is not always possible, based on observations alone, to distinguish clearly between archaeological remains and historical remains, or between historical remains and remains from the relatively recent past. Although certain criteria may help to make this distinction possible, these criteria are not always present, or, when they are present, they are not always clear enough to interpret with great accuracy. Criteria such as square floor plans (a historical feature) may serve as a guideline. However, circular and square floors may occur together on the same site.

The term 'sensitive remains' is sometimes used to distinguish graves and cemeteries as well as ideologically significant features such as holy mountains, initiation sites or other sacred places. Graves in particular are not necessarily heritage resources if they date from the recent past and do not have head stones that are older than sixty years. The distinction between 'formal' and 'informal' graves in most instances also refers to graveyards that were used by colonists and by indigenous people. This distinction may be important as different cultural groups may uphold different traditions and values with regard to their ancestors. These values have to be recognised and honoured whenever graveyards are exhumed and relocated.

The term 'Stone Age' refers to the prehistoric past, although Late Stone Age peoples lived in South Africa well into the historical period. The Stone Age is divided into an Earlier Stone Age (3 million years to 150 000 thousand years ago) the Middle Stone Age (150 000 years to 40 000 years ago) and the Late Stone Age (40 000 years to 200 years ago).

The term 'Late Iron Age' refers to the period between the 17th century and the 19th century and can therefore include the historical period.

Mining heritage sites refer to old, abandoned mining activities, underground or on the surface, which may date from the pre-historical, historical or the relatively recent past.

The term 'study area', or 'project area' refers to the area where the developer wants to focus its development activities (refer to plan).

Phase I studies refer to surveys using various sources of data in order to establish the presence of all possible types of heritage resources in any given area.

Phase II studies include in-depth cultural heritage studies such as archaeological mapping, excavating and sometimes laboratory work. Phase II work may include the documenting of rock art, engraving or historical sites and dwellings; the sampling of archaeological sites or shipwrecks; extended excavations of archaeological sites; the exhumation of bodies and the relocation of graveyards, etc. Phase II work may require the input of specialists and requires the co-operation and approval of SAHRA.

Figure 1 : The Dullstroom Country Lodge Phase III project area to the east of Dullstroom in the Mpumalanga Province of South Africa.

Note the position of informal graves, the ruins of a historical farm homestead, remains from the recent past and a modern residence in the project area.

4 THE HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT (HIA) STUDY

4.1 Types and ranges of heritage resources in the project area

The HIA study of the project area revealed the presence of the following types and ranges of heritage resources in the project area:

- Two informal graves
- Informal dwellings
- A Late Iron Age or Historical Site
- The ruins of a Historical Farm Home(stead)
- A modern residence (not relevant to this report)

The heritage resources are now discussed in more detail and illustrated with photographs.

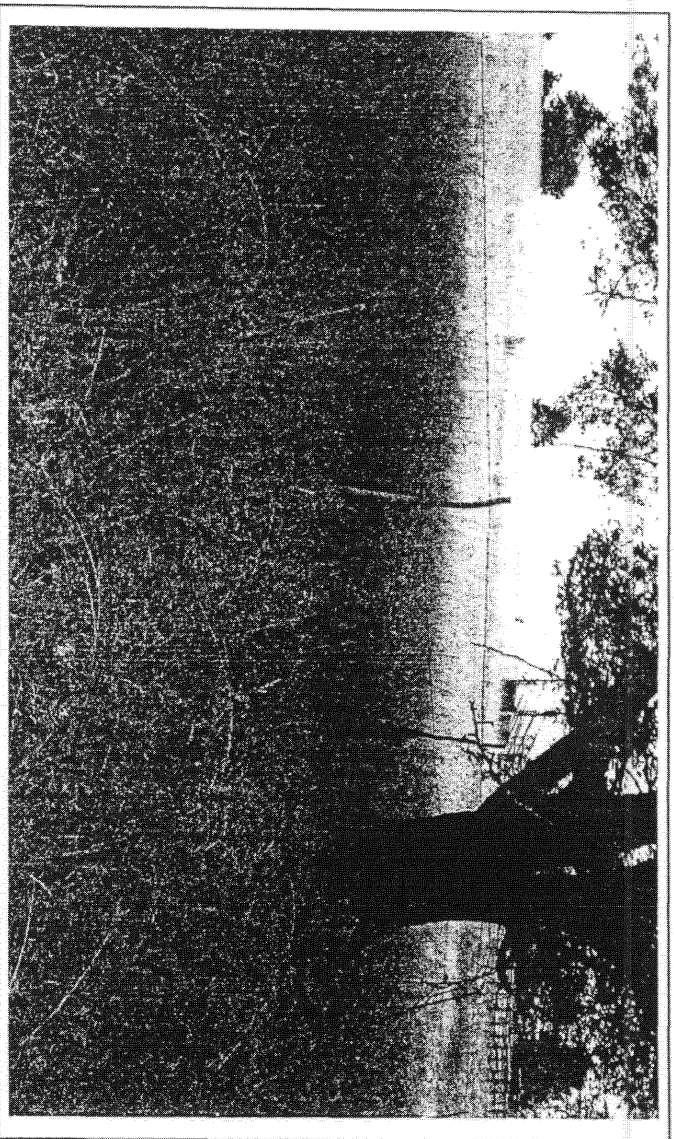
4.1.1 Informal graves

The graves of two children were found near the Informal Dwellings in the north-western zone of the project area (which is covered with Pine, Blue Gum and Wattle Trees) (Figure 2).

The graves are those of Mr. Klaas Nthombeni's children who died as long as twenty years ago. (Mr. Nthombeni occupies the informal dwelling in the north-western zone of the project area).

Each of the graves (located next to each other) is covered with a few stones. The graves are barely visible in the tall grass cover (Figure 2).

Figure 2- The graves of Mr. Klaas Nthombeni's children are barely visible as they are only covered with a few stones. These graves may be older than twenty years (below).

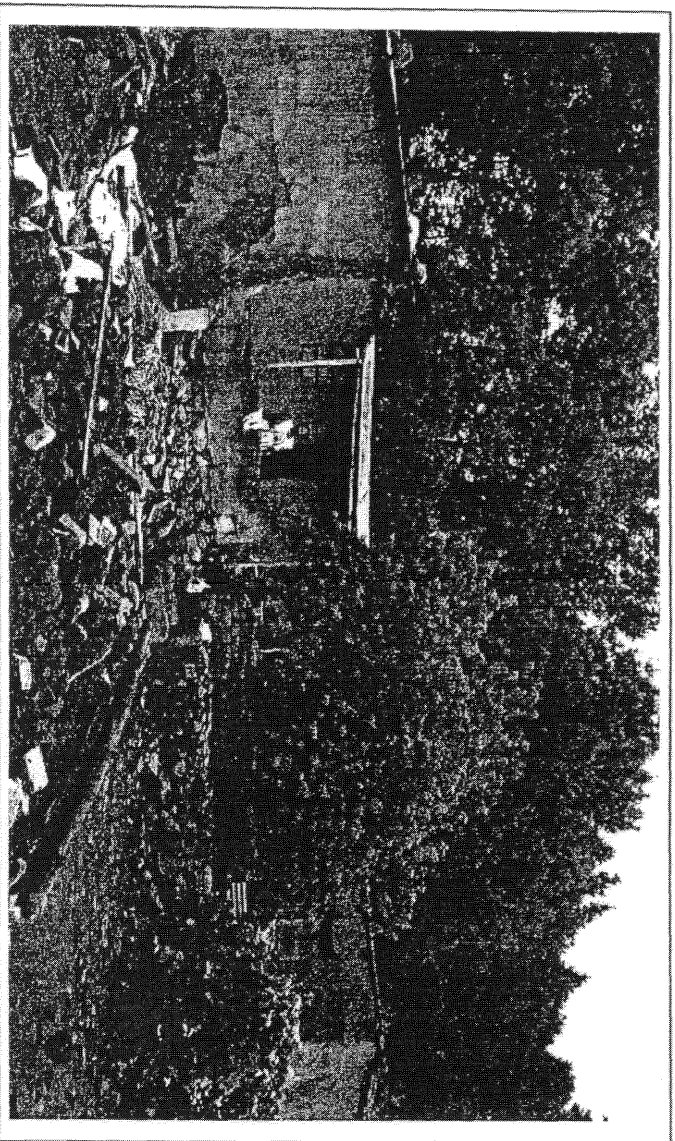


4.1.2 The Informal Dwelling

An Informal Dwelling is located next to the Late Iron Age or Historical site. This structure consists of three linked residences. These residences are square and were built with clay bricks and plaster and covered with corrugated zink roofs (Figure 3).

The Informal Dwelling is characterised by a typical contemporary Sotho or Ndebele architectural style where several residences are linked around a centrally located 'stoep' (stoop) area (Figure).

Figure 3- The Informal Dwelling was constructed with clay bricks and is composed of several residences that are linked together (below).

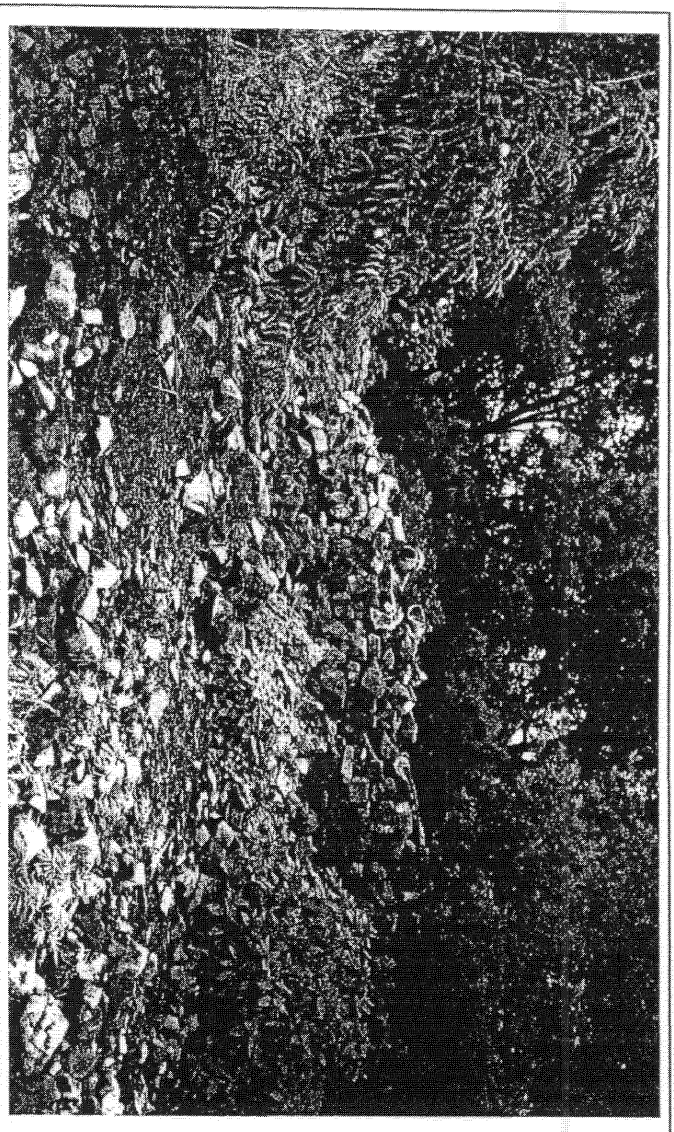


4.1.3 A Late Iron Age or Historical Site

The remains of a settlement that consists of at least two enclosures - one circular and the other square in ground plan – as well as several unattached walls occur near the Informal Dwelling. This site is also marked by shorter pieces of walls which may have been adapted in the more recent past to suit the needs of the residents of the Informal Dwelling (Figure 4).

It is possible that this stone walled site may date from the second half of the 19th century and that it can be classified as a Late Iron Age or a Historical Site.

Figure 4- Some of the walls of the Late Iron Age or Historical Site near the Informal Dwelling (below).

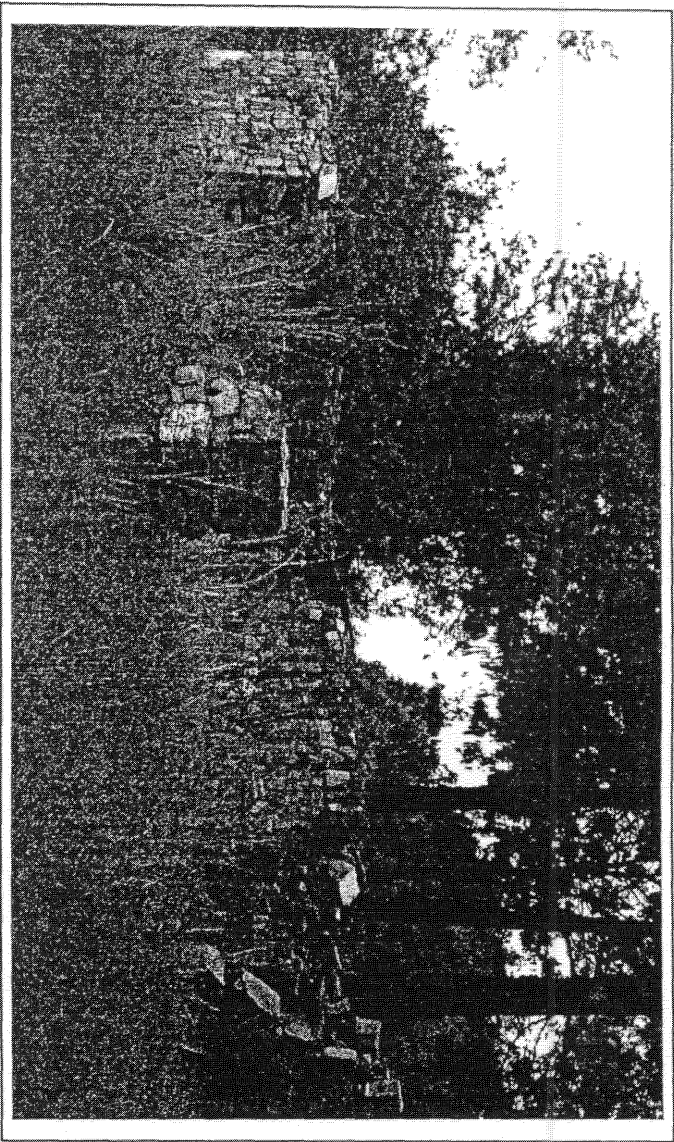


4.1.4 Ruins of a Historical Farm Home(stead)

A severely dilapidated ruin of what may have been an early farm homestead dating from the late 19th century or from the early 20th century also occurs in the north-western corner of the project area (Figure 5).

This structure was constructed with stone blocks and with mortar. It has no roof any longer as it has largely collapsed. Its remaining walls barely stand one meter high. A historical Oak Tree opposite the dirt road (and outside the project area) used to be part of the 'plaaswerf' (yard) which bordered on the farm house. However, the secondary dirt road was built across this 'plaaswerf' (farm yard) many years ago.

Figure 5- The severely dilapidated ruins of the Historical Farm House in the north-western corner of the project area (below).



5 THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE HERITAGE RESOURCES

The following types and ranges of heritage resources were discovered in the project area:

- Two informal graves
- An Informal dwelling
- A Late Iron Age or Historical Site
- The ruins of a Historical Farm Home(stead)
- A modern residence (not relevant to the discussion)

5.1 Rating the significance of the heritage resources

The significance of the heritage resources can be rated as follows:

5.1.1 The informal graves

All graves qualify as being of outstanding significance.

5.1.2 The Informal Dwelling

The Informal Dwelling has no historical or cultural significance as it dates from the recent past. Thousands of these types of dwellings are still occupied by hundred thousands of South Africans.

5.1.3 A Late Iron Age or Historical Site

The Late Iron Age or Historical Site has been vandalised by the residents living in the Informal Dwelling. The stone walled site was not only robbed of stones to be used as building material elsewhere but some of the structures of this site have been adapted –possibly by the residents living in the Informal Dwelling to suit

their needs. Whilst the square enclosure has been filled with soil, some of the other stone structures were altered so that they could be used for specific purposes, e.g. as stock enclosures.

The clearly altered stone walled site therefore has little if no historical significance any longer.

5.1.4 Ruins of a Historical Farm Home(stead)

The ruins of the Farm House are severely dilapidated. The original appearance of this structure can only be guessed.

The structure has no significance any longer as a result of its state of repair. The context of the Historical House (associated 'plaaswerf', outbuildings and other features) are also long gone as they have fallen victim to modernization.

5.2 Possible impact on the heritage resources

If the proposed new Dullstroom Country Lodge Phase II residential development project expands onto the northern perimeter of the north-western zone of the project area the following heritage resources will be affected by the development project, namely:

- Two informal graves
- An Informal dwelling
- A Late Iron Age or Historical Site
- The ruins of a Historical Farm Home(stead)

Impact on these resources has the following consequences:

5.2.1 The informal graves

The informal graves must either be conserved *in situ* or must be exhumed and relocated. The conservation of the graves implies that they have to be protected for posterity and that access should be available to family members and friends who wish to visit the graves.

It is recommended that the graves be exhumed and relocated should they be affected by the development.

5.2.2 The Informal Dwelling

The Informal Dwelling date from the recent past and can be demolished without acquiring any permit from the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA).

5.2.3 The Late Iron Age or Historical Site

The Late Iron Age or Historical site can not be demolished without a permit from SAHRA. It is recommended that the developer approaches an archaeologist accredited with ASAPA to acquire a permit from SAHRA for the destruction of this site.

5.2.4 The ruins of a Historical Farm Home(stead)

The ruins of the Historical Farm House can only be destroyed after the developer has acquired a permit from SAHRA which allows for the destruction of this structure. It is recommended that the developer approaches an archaeologist accredited with ASAPA to acquire a permit from SAHRA for the destruction of this site.

6 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The HIA study of the Dullstrom Country Lodge Phase II residential development project revealed the presence of two Informal Graves, an Informal Dwelling, a Late Iron Age or Historical Site and a Historical Farm House on the northern perimeter of the north-western zone of the project area. All these heritage resources will be affected (destroyed) if the proposed new residential development project expands into the north-western zone of the project area.

The Informal Graves can be considered to be of outstanding significance. These graves have to be conserved (*in situ*) for posterity in the new residential development or have to be exhumed and relocated. It is recommended that the deceased be exhumed and that the graves be relocated. This work must be done by forensic archaeologists who will acquire all the necessary permits for the exhumation of the graves and the relocation of the graveyards. Various laws, provincial regulations and administrative procedures regulate this activity. Contact details for forensic archaeologists are: Mr. Coen Nienaber, Dept of Anatomy, University of Pretoria (tel. 012 3192244).

The Informal Dwelling has no significance and can be destroyed by the new development project. The developer needs not to acquire a permit from SAHRA for the demolishing of these remains.

The Late Iron Age or Historical Site and the Historical Farm House can only be demolished after a permit for the destruction of these remains have been issued by SAHRA. It is recommended that the developer approaches an archaeologist accredited with ASAPA to apply for this permit and to supervise the demolishing of this site.

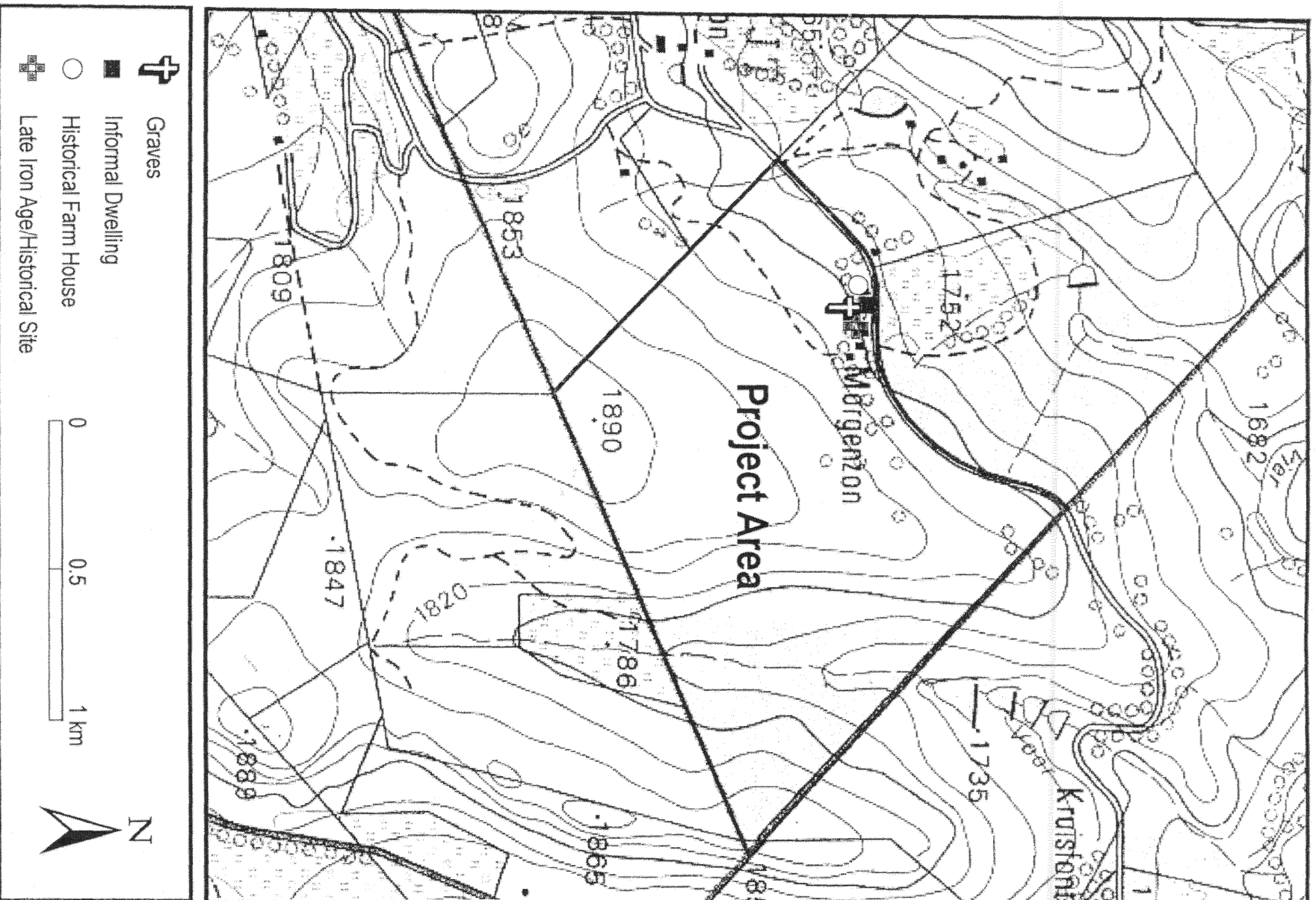
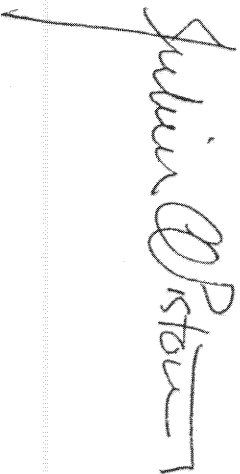


Figure 1: The Dullstroom Country Lodge Phase III project area to the east of Dullstroom in the Mpumalanga Province of South Africa.
 Note the position of graves, an Informal Dwelling, a Late Iron Age/Historical Site and a Historical Farm House.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Julius C. Pistorius". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J' and a horizontal line at the end.

DR JULIUS CC PISTORIUS
Archaeologist &
Heritage Management Consultant
Member ASAPA

7 SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Pistorius, J.C.C. 1993. 'n Onderzoek na die voorkoms van sogenaamde rotsgravures, 'n skrifsimbolestel, klipstandbeelde en ander klipstrukture op 'n gedeelte van die beoogde Dullstroom verbypad (PADP248-1). (Mede-outeur, F P Coetzee). Verslag voorberei vir Liebenberg & Jenkins, Siviele Ingenieurs: Pretoria.
- Pistorius, J.C.C. 2004. *A Phase I Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) study for a portion of Portion 4 of the farm Valspryt 132KT south of Dullstroom in the Mpumalanga Province of South Africa*. Unpublished report for Landscape Dynamics: Pretoria.
- Pistorius, J.C.C. 2004. *A Phase I Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) study for Portion 15 (a portion of Portion 4) of the farm Kareekraal 135JT located to the east of Dullstroom in the Mpumalanga Province of South Africa*. Unpublished report for Landscape Dynamics: Pretoria.